



What is this course about?

Philosophy and Reason combines the discipline of philosophy with the associated skills of critical reasoning. The study of philosophy allows you to recognise the relevance of various philosophies to different political, ethical, religious and scientific positions. It also allows you to realise that decisions in these areas are the result of the acceptance of certain ideas and specific modes of reasoning. In addition, critical reasoning and logic provide knowledge, skills and understanding so students are able to engage with, examine and analyse classical and contemporary ideas and issues. The study of philosophy enables you to make rational arguments, espouse viewpoints and engage in informed discourse.

Through the study of Philosophy and Reason, you will collaboratively investigate philosophical ideas that have shaped and continue to influence contemporary society. These ideas include what it means to be human, how we understand the role of reason in our individual and collective lives and how we think about and care for each other and the world around us. You will analyse arguments from a variety of sources and contexts as they develop an understanding of what constitutes effective reasoning. You will formalise arguments and choose appropriate techniques of reasoning to attempt to solve problems. The collaborative nature of philosophical inquiry is an essential component for you to understand and develop norms of effective thinking and to value and seek a range of ideas beyond your own.

How will I be assessed?

The following syllabus objectives summarise how you will be assessed in this course:

- Define and use terminology
- Explain concepts, methods, principles and theories
- Interpret and analyse arguments, ideas and information
- Organise and synthesise ideas and information to construct arguments
- Evaluate claims and arguments inherent in theories, views and ideas
- Create responses that communicate meaning to suit purpose

The important learning skills of Philosophy and Reason

Critical thinking	Creative thinking	Communication	Collaboration and teamwork	Personal and social skills	ICT skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analytical thinking • problem-solving • decision-making • reasoning • reflecting and evaluating • intellectual flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • innovation • initiative and enterprise • curiosity and imagination • creativity • generating and applying new ideas • identifying alternatives • seeing or making new links 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective oral and written communication • using language, symbols and texts • communicating ideas effectively with diverse audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relating to others (interacting with others) • recognising and using diverse perspectives • participating and contributing • community connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adaptability/flexibility • management (self, career, time, planning and organising) • character (resilience, mindfulness, open- and fair-mindedness, self-awareness) • leadership • citizenship • cultural awareness • ethical (and moral) understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operations and concepts • accessing and analysing information • being productive users of technology • digital citizenship (being safe, positive and responsible online)